

REMARKS

Original claim 3 has been re-written in independent form as claim 7. New claims 8-11 depend from claim 7.

Claims 1-11 are pending for further examination.

In the Office action, the claims were rejected as follows:

* Claims 1-3 and 5-6 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,268,702 (Fleck).

* Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,418,697 (Chiou).

As discussed below, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

The Fleck patent discloses a lamp for use in an aircraft. The lamp includes arrays 7, 8 of LEDs which may be arranged in a series/parallel array 70, 80 (*see, e.g.*, FIGS. 2 and 4). The total number of LEDs in the array may be as high as 180 (col. 4, lines 2-3), with as many as nine LEDs in series (col. 4, line 30). Each group of LEDs connected in series is symmetrical *in one dimension only* (*e.g.*, in FIG. 4, they are symmetrical with respect to an imaginary vertical line extending from 111 to 110).

In contrast to original claim 3 (re-written as new claim 7), each group of LEDs connected in series in the Fleck patent is not symmetrical in *two dimensions*. An example of such a 2-dimensional arrangement is shown in FIGS. 7A, 7B of the pending specification. Each light emitting element line, L11 through L13, is symmetrical about two perpendicular centerlines C1, C2.

Claim 3 (re-written as new claim 7) was not rejected over the Chiou patent.

In view of the foregoing remarks, claim 7, as well as dependent claims 8-11, should be allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that a plurality of light emitting elements, which are arranged along an imaginary, substantially straight line that intersects and is perpendicular to the first centerline, correspond to at least two different light emitting element lines.

For example, as shown in FIGS. 3A, 3B of the pending specification, six LEDs are arranged in a line that intersects and is perpendicular to the centerline C1. The six LEDs correspond to three different light emitting element lines, L1, L2, L3, and each of the light emitting element lines L1, L2, L3 is symmetrical about the centerline C1.

In contrast, as disclosed in the Fleck patent, all the LEDs that are arranged along an imaginary, straight line that intersects and is perpendicular to the centerline are connected in series and, therefore, correspond to the same light emitting element line. They do not correspond to two or more different light emitting element lines.

The subject matter of amended claim 1 also is not disclosed or suggested by the Chiou patent, which discloses a lamp assembly that includes two groups of LEDs (311 in FIG. 4). The LEDs within each group are in parallel, not in series. Furthermore, although the two groups of LEDs are in series with one another (FIG. 4), that does not result in the claimed subject matter of claim 1. In particular, as shown in FIG. 4 of the Chiou patent, the two groups of LEDs are connected by a single line. Therefore, there is no plurality of light emitting element lines each of which "separately connect[s] a respective plurality of the light emitting elements in series," as recited in claim 1.

Applicant also points out that the identification in the office action of item 31 in the Chiou patent as corresponding to a light emitting element line is incorrect. Item 31 is a circuit board (col. 2, line 19).

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant submits that claims 1-6 are patentable over the Chiou patent.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above

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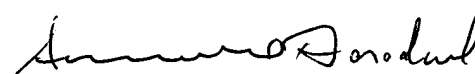
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may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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